

## FARP Keeps 4 BCT in Flight and in Fight

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel  
122nd MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- FARP. No, it's not the sound you make after drinking a soda too fast, it stands for Forward Arming and Refueling Point and it keeps the aircraft of the 4th Brigade Combat Team in the fight.

Broken down into two 12-hour shifts, First Team troopers of Headquarters Support Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th BCT man a redesigned FARP on Camp Taji.

"When we first arrived on Camp Taji, there was trash all over the landing pad, the area wasn't really big enough and....it was just a mess," said the 615th ASB commander and Cedar Hill, Tenn. native Lt. Col. David Parker.

Parker said once an initial assessment was complete, plans were drawn up and Soldiers set to work 'improving the fox hole.'

"When my Soldiers sat down and began planning out the layout they really put some forward thought into the FARP's design," he said. "Whoever inherits this from us is going to be coming in to a really nice set-up."

The first order of business was to get the landing pad clear of debris and to establish a security perimeter said Sgt. Rob Trigg a squad leader with the 1st shift.

"Mortar rounds and shrapnel are of course a concern so we installed blast walls along the perimeter of the FARP to offer some protection," Trigg said. "We expanded the landing pad so we can handle more aircraft, installed airfield lights for night time operations, set up trailers for our personnel out here, laid a walk-way from the trailers to the pad...just



Sgt. Rob Trigg of Madison, Miss a squad leader with Headquarters Support Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division pulls a hose off the landing pad after refueling an AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter.

anything we could do to make it better. To the best of my knowledge, we have the biggest FARP in theater."

With its current configuration, the FARP can accommodate six aircraft simultaneously. According to Trigg, in an average day approximately 75 aircraft touch down and top off. Over the course of the deployment, that has equaled a lot of fuel.

"So far we've pumped over 3.3 million gallons of fuel. To put that into perspective back in garrison, it would take us about five years to pump that much," he said.

It takes many Soldiers to man the FARP; one to man the radio, one to operate the pump, one safety noncommissioned officer, and others are responsible for filling the aircraft, taking turns with the different responsibilities.



Photos by Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Pfc. Rasheen Davis of Chicago with Headquarters Support Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, tops off a Black Hawk Helicopter. Davis is a petroleum supply specialist currently working on Camp Taji's Forward Arming and Refueling Point.

"It takes two Soldiers to fill an aircraft," said Spc. Geoffrey Ives, a petroleum supply specialist from Tucson, Az. "One to fill the aircraft and one to operate the fire extinguisher system. We make sure to take turns so everyone knows how to do each others' job."

The FARP handles not only Army aircraft but any Multi-National Force Helicopter that may touch down.

"We will take care of any [Multi-National Force] air-

craft. No one gets turned away," said Longview, Texas resident Sgt. Terrance Avila.

With so many aircraft coming in, the potential for an accident is high. To date, the platoon's safety record is impeccable.

"We haven't had a single safety violation or spill since we got here," Avila said. "That's pretty impressive."

"My Soldiers out there are doing some amazing work," said Parker. "Without them, this brigade would shut down."



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT Public Affairs

Sgt. Christopher Woodruff works in his spare time to complete a mural that will represent the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry after they have left Iraq.

## 3-153 Soldiers Leave their Mark in Baghdad

BAGHDAD -- The 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment is leaving their mark in history and instilling unit pride in Baghdad's International Zone with the mural of a warrior Indian that spans the height of a wall. Sgt. Christopher Woodruff, 26, of Malvern, Ark., designed the battalion mascot last fall in Fort Hood, Texas, while gearing up for the deployment to Iraq.

Woodruff didn't want to leave the 1st Cavalry Division out of the design since his unit was attached to them so he added their patch as a part of the warrior's shield.

Forming metal is Woodruff's true talent when it comes to art, but he said he had no problems completing the project that included drawing and painting.

"I always had a talent but I learned the shading techniques in high school," Woodruff said.

Woodruff's design will also be used on the unit's deployment coin that's due out before the end of the year.

### Monday

High: 57

Low: 35



### Tuesday

High: 60

Low: 37



### Wednesday

High: 62

Low: 38



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)



1st Cavalry Division Band Presents

## HOLIDAY CONCERT SERIES

## A MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA



Thursday, 23 December

Camp Liberty

Division Chapel

1900



## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Here - hunaa

car - sayyaara

inside - daakhil

mosque - al-jaamiAH

there - hunaa

children - ATfaal

upstairs - fauq

beautiful - jameel

not yet - laysa bAHd

camera - kaameera

now - al-aan

money - naqood

go on - akmil

carpets - sijaad

water - maa'

ball - kura

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## News Notes

### 10-Year-Old Flees Low-Speed Chase

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- Ken Haynes was on his way to work Tuesday at St. Vincent Health System when he noticed who was at the wheel of a furniture truck. "I looked over and said, 'My God, it's a kid driving that truck,'" Haynes said. "I was scared to death he was going to hurt himself." The driver was indeed quite young; a 10-year-old boy with "emotional problems" who fled from a stopped school bus and stole the truck as it sat waiting to be loaded at an office-furniture store. Haynes alerted a state trooper to the situation, and the officer began pursuing the truck. Eventually, the truck slid off I-630 into the median and became mired in mud.

### Homeless Man Gets Compacted

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) -- A homeless man who fell asleep in a commercial trash bin was dumped into the back of a garbage truck Friday and compacted - but escaped serious injury. Lt. Scott Robertson of the Ann Arbor fire department said he did not know how much of the compacting process was completed before the man was discovered. "Just being in the dumpster and being dumped would have been a heck of a ride, let alone being compacted," Robertson told The Ann Arbor News. He said firefighters got on top of the garbage truck and were able to get the man out.



Killeen Daily Herald

Wearing a uniform as a tribute to his father, Dawson Evans, 3, waits at Fort Hood with other families for the return Friday of 100 13th Corps Support Command Soldiers after an 11-month deployment to Iraq. The Soldiers were part of a group supporting III Corps and the 1st Cavalry Division.

## 'Deal Junkie' Helps Central Texas' Neediest

AUSTIN, Texas (Austin American-Statesman) -- Over the years, developer Terry Mitchell has become accustomed to getting long-distance calls from his friend Dick Rathgeber.

They go something like this:

"Dick, where are you?" Mitchell asks.

"I'm on my way to Honduras," Rathgeber says. "I heard Hurricane Mitch left hundreds of people without homes. We're gonna build them some."

"Why are you doing that?" Mitchell asks.

"Well, Terry, they need them," he answers.

For three decades, the plainspoken, gregarious, bulldog of a man has worked passionately to help people in need, including a long list of Central Texas organizations such as Meals on Wheels, the Girl Scouts and the Salvation Army.

He applies his formidable energy, his deal-making prowess, his powerful connections and his money to solve problems, including those that seem unsolvable, working usually behind the scenes and often without being asked.

"I'm not a jolly do-gooder," the veteran developer insists in his West Texas drawl. "I'm a deal junkie. If you see a deal that's in the ditch and you can fix it with a little money or expertise, that's what you should be doing."

Last week, Rathgeber finalized his latest contribution, 16 acres adjacent to Mueller for a campus for as many as six organizations serving children, including a new Austin Children's Shelter and an expanded Scottish Rite Learning Center for children with dyslexia.

"It's expensive property," said former Texas Supreme Court Justice Jack Hightower, chair-



Austin American-Statesman

A 16-acre property worth \$3.6 million donated by developer Dick Rathgeber, right, last week will provide a home for the Austin Children's Shelter and other organizations serving children.

man of the learning center. "For that to be donated is a tremendous help. Mr. Rathgeber is just an angel."

Rathgeber invested more than \$200,000 of his own money to put in water and sewer systems for a flood-ravaged Honduran town, donating an ambulance and fire truck as well. He was the catalyst behind the Williamson County Regional Trail, a wilderness trail that will run from Cedar Park to Dell Diamond in Round Rock.

"Dick's gifts are his ability to see the objective clearly and then to have an understanding of the practical dynamics of getting from point A to point B," said Charles Barnett, chief executive officer of the Seton Healthcare Network. "He is tireless in that."

## Vick, Falcons Outlast Panthers in OT

ATLANTA (AP) -- The Atlanta Falcons responded to the NFL's ultimate comeback team with one of their own.

Michael Vick scored the tying touchdown on a 12-yard run with less than two minutes to go in regulation, then Jay Feely kicked a 38-yard field goal in overtime for a 34-31 victory over Carolina, snapping the Panthers' five-game winning streak Saturday night.

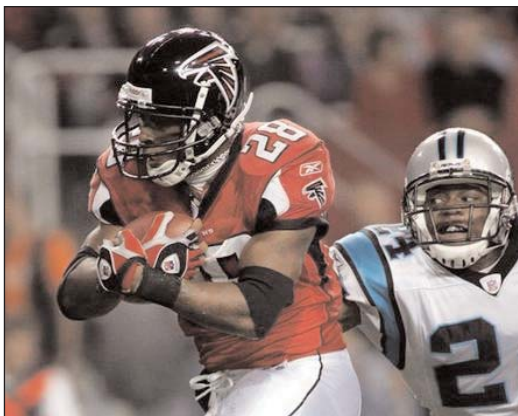
Carolina (6-8) got back into playoff contention after a 1-7 start, and the Panthers were as resilient as ever in this one, recovering from a pair of double-digit deficits.

The Panthers went ahead for the first time with a 21-point fourth quarter, only to have the Falcons (11-3) show they know a thing or two about bouncing back.

Dez White got the Falcons in position for the tying score with a dazzling 54-yard reception. He caught the ball along the sideline at the Carolina 40, spun around with one hand on the turf and sprinted all the way to the 5.

A holding penalty backed up the Falcons, who got down to their final play - fourth-and-goal from the Carolina 12. They had the right player for that position.

Vick spotted an opening up the middle and took off for the end zone, diving across with 1:37 remaining. The officials reviewed the play to see if Vick went down before he crossed the goal line, but replays showed that he somehow kept his left knee suspended about an inch above the turf as he stretched out for the end zone.



Atlanta Falcons running back Warrick Dunn (28) looks for running room as Carolina Panthers' Ricky Manning Jr., hangs on in the first quarter Saturday in Atlanta.

Carolina won the coin toss in overtime, only to have Jake Delhomme overthrow Ricky Proehl. Aaron Beasley made the interception and returned it 30 yards to the Carolina 23.

A couple of safe runs into the middle of the line set up Feely, who connected on third down to put the Falcons on the brink of clinching the No. 2 seed in the NFC.

They already had wrapped up the NFC South, just the third division title in franchise history.

## Horns Miss Buzzer-Beater Shot at Upset

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) -- P.J. Tucker matched his career-best with 27 points on Saturday. Texas Coach Rick Barnes wanted him to angle for two more.

But Tucker, dribbling near midcourt, didn't see an opening. With six seconds to play, he handed off the ball to teammate Kenton Paulino, whose 18-foot shot from the right wing bounced off the rim as the game ended, enabling sixth-ranked Wake Forest to beat No. 14 Texas 89-88.

Tucker has been chosen before by his coach in similar situations. Last season, Tucker dribbled end to end and made a shot to beat Providence. But in November, he drove into the lane and missed a 12-footer at the end that would have tied a game against Iowa.

The Longhorns (7-2) made a crafty move to give themselves a chance to win. With 11.9 seconds remaining and

Wake (9-1) set to make an inbounds pass 94 feet from its basket, Tucker allowed Demon Deacons center Eric Williams to get behind him, like a wide receiver passing a cornerback. Williams scored 19 points - 17 in the second half - but he shot free throws with only 61 percent accuracy. Wake guard Justin Gray went for the bait, passing to Williams, who was fouled by Tucker with 10.9 seconds left.

"They were thinking he was gonna get a layup," Tucker said. "He's not that fast."

Williams missed both free throws, Tucker grabbed his 14th rebound of the game after the second free throw, and now he had a decision to make.

"I probably should have taken it coast to coast," Tucker said. "I guess I didn't because (a path to the basket) wasn't as open as I thought. Even though I could have put it on my shoulders, I still wanted to pass it."



Wake Forest's Chris Paul drives past Texas' Sydmill Harris during the first half in Winston-Salem, N.C. Saturday.

Paulino was left with no option but to shoot.

"I was looking to see if anybody else was open," Paulino said. "Nobody was."

## In Brief

### Washington Gives Awards to Troops

SAN ANTONIO (AP) -- Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington on Friday presented Purple Hearts to some Soldiers at Brooke Army Medical Center who were wounded while in Iraq. Washington was invited by the Army to help recognize the Soldiers as they recover from their injuries. Washington received a best actor Oscar for his 2001 movie *Training Day*. He portrayed an Army officer and Desert Storm veteran in the 1996 film *Courage Under Fire*.



### Spawn's Creator Goes to Court

PHOENIX (AP) -- A \$15 million jury award against *Spawn* creator Todd McFarlane has pushed his comic-book business into bankruptcy court. Todd McFarlane Productions Inc. of suburban Tempe filed for Chapter 11 protection from creditors Friday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The bankruptcy filing allows McFarlane's company to continue to operate and reorganize its finances while freeing it from the threat of creditors' lawsuits. A jury in St. Louis awarded former NHL player Tony Twist \$15 million after concluding that McFarlane and his company profited by using Twist's name without permission and that Twist's publicity rights were infringed.